

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Park Advisory Commission Meeting

December 18, 2008

Middletown Town Hall
Middletown, Virginia

- I) Introduction
- II) Review of Minutes from September 18, 2008
- III) General Management Plan
 - A) Planning status update—Stubbs
 - B) GMP public review (handout)—Stubbs
 - C) Advisory Commission comments; draft comments from subcommittee—group
 - D) GMP public meetings, January 27-29, 2009—Stubbs
- IV) Old Business
 - A) Key Partner facilitated session, September 22—Jacox
- V) New Business
 - A) Election of officers; call for nominations
 - B) Other?
- VI) Next Meeting—March 19, 2009, Front Royal, Warren County Government Center

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, DFO; Fred Andreae, Mary Bowser, Gene Dicks, Patrick Farris, Randy Jones, Sarah Mauck, Elizabeth McClung, Gary Rinkerman, Pam Sheets, and Kris Tierney, chair.

Commission members absent: Roy Downey, Jim Smalls, and Dan Stickley.

Others in attendance: Catharine Gilliam, National Parks Conservation Association; Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Brent Laurenz, Civil War Preservation Trust; Elizabeth Stern, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation; Chris Stubbs, National Park Service.

Chair Kris Tierney opened the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

The minutes were approved as submitted.

Chris Stubbs reported that the draft GMP had been distributed to 450 people either as complete hard copies or as CDs. All public comments are due to the NPS no later than February 27, 2009.

The commission members discussed how they would submit their comments on the GMP. Some initial attempts had been made by individuals, but they decided that it was important to present a unified, unanimous statement supporting Alternative D. Accordingly, the commissioners decided to start with one of the drafts, go through the entire document line by line, and end today's meeting with a document that they could all support and sign, once all changes and

corrections were incorporated. Review of the document then proceeded. Diann Jacox asked that their comments be in the form of a letter to her with signature lines for each commission member, in alphabetical order. She also suggested that the Board Chair of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation sign the document, since the position of executive director is now vacant.

Chris Stubbs asked for commission members to volunteer to help with the upcoming public meetings and to let him know if they could participate.

Old Business

Diann Jacox reported on the facilitated meeting with the Key Partners, September 22, 2008. All Key Partner executive directors, each with one or more board members, attended the meeting. All who attended noted that the session was valuable and affirmed everyone's desire to continue working together. Everyone acknowledged that communication is the major issue, and that would require continued commitment to making the partnership work. The Key Partners have met a few times since the facilitated session and worked on ways to ensure that communication is clear and complete.

New Business

Chris Stubbs reminded the commission members that it was time to call for nominations for the annual election of officers. Several members stated that they were happy with both the current chair and vice-chair and saw no reason for changing. The terms of Kris Tierney as chair and Randy Jones as vice chair were extended for one more year.

Sarah Mauck announced that Preserve America had honored three local communities: Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Middleburg and Strasburg, Virginia.

Elizabeth McClung announced that the Belle Grove candlelight tours are in full swing. The doll collection of a Strasburg school teacher is being showcased throughout the house this year.

The next commission meeting will be in Front Royal at the Warren County Government Center on March 19, 2009.

Chair Kris Tierney adjourned the meeting at 12 noon.

Handouts Provided at the Meeting

- Public review bullets
- Subcommittee comments – 3 versions